

Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Public Safety

Chair Winters, Co-Chair Piluso and members of the Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Public Safety:

My name is Christina and I am a survivor of domestic violence. I support HB 5515 because Clackamas Women's Services literally changed my life. I received counseling, attended support groups, and received EMDR (Eye movement desensitization and reprocessing) all through Clackamas Women's Services all at no charge to me.

I came to CWS a broken person. I had been in an mentally, physically, and emotionally abusive relationship for 5 years. I got out of the relationship and away from him but the mental and emotional abuse continued. He could no longer physically control me, so he controlled me through the court system. I had to see my abuser every other weekend and send my young daughter with him. CWS gave me hope and support. They taught me about DV and the cycle of abuse. No one understood like Clackamas Women's services. I was given tools to help deal with the anxiety I felt daily. It meant the world to me that they listened, didn't judge me, and understood what I was going through. They were and still are vital in my healing process. I honestly don't know where I would be without the help of CWS. I know I would not be able to financially afford the help Clackamas Womens Services gave me.

Please, I urge you to support a \$10 million increase to the Oregon Domestic & Sexual Violence Services Fund.

Sincerely,

Christina